

QUICK LESSON 14 2nd October 20

PLAYING UP – ON THE NECK

OPEN STRING CHORDS

So far we have usually played standard chords, that is chords involving only the first three frets. Chords played further up the neck of the Uke can give a different sound and add variety and interest particularly if there is a number of players, some playing chords at what is known as first position and others playing chords up the neck. For this series of QUICK LESSONS we are going to learn to play some Open String Chords that can be played up the neck.

Open String Chords simply means we are playing chords up the neck with sympathetic open strings.

The technical name for such chords is "inversions". Its not important at this stage to understand what this means but it helps to understand what is going on. **I will post an explanation of this separately for those who would like to know.**

1. You will find some of the chords we will cover over the coming Lessons are familiar shapes, whilst others are quite different.

2. The open strings in the chords form part of the chord structure. The reason why chords are called "Open" is that they have some open (unfretted) strings in them.

We are going to start by learning the chords "A" and "Am".

g	C	E	A	
█	█	█	█	
█	█	█	█	
█	█	█	█	3 rd Fret
█	x	█	█	
█	█	█	█	5 th fret
x	█	█	█	
█	█	█	█	7 th Fret
█	█	█	█	
█	█	█	█	

TO MAKE THE "A" CHORD

Place your 1st finger on the C string at the 4th Fret

Place your 3rd finger on the 6th Fret of the G string

g	C	E	A	
█	█	█	█	
█	█	█	█	
█	█	█	█	3 rd Fret
█	x	█	█	
x	█	█	█	5 th fret
█	█	█	█	
█	█	█	█	7 th Fret
█	█	█	█	
█	█	█	█	

TO MAKE THE "Am" CHORD

Place your 1st finger on the C string at the 4th Fret

Place your 2nd finger on the G string at the 5th Fret

We will develop using these chords in our Lesson 14.